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SOURCE Soviet newspapers as indicated.

**PEAT SEASON BEGINS EARLY:
SHALE MINERS RECEIVE NEW EQUIPMENT**

***PEAT-MINING BEGINS IN MOSCOW OBLAST --** Moskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 80, 6 Apr 49

Post-mining operations were begun 5 April 1949 by the Orekhovo-Zuyevskiy Peat Trust in Moscow Oblast. It was the earliest opening of operations during the 15 years that the trust has existed.

Koskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 81, 7 Apr 49

The "Tugoleskiy Bor," Petrovsko-Kobolevskoye, and Bakaheyero enterprises of Mstura Trust started peat cutting on 6 April. Automatic high-pressure pumps have been installed at the "Tugoleskiy Bor" development.

LATVIAN PEAT ENTERPRISES PREPARE FOR SEASON -- Sovetskaya Litva, No 78, 7 Apr 49

Preparations for the next season are in progress in Shyaul'yayskiy Rayon. Repair of machinery, mine locomotives, railroad cars, and narrow-gauge railroads has been completed. Large areas have been drained and stumps uprooted.

Peat-cutting equipment is being considerably improved. With the beginning of the peat season, new multipurpose machines will be put into operation and four additional kilometers of narrow-gauge railroad will be laid.

Sovetskaya Latvija, No 83, 9 Apr 49

The "Vilyany" Plant in Latvian SSR has begun peat-cutting operations. A peat-cutting machine used by the plant produces 24,000 bricks of peat per day.

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LENINGRAD SCIENTISTS VISIT SHALE MINES -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 47,
26 Feb 49

Members of the Leningrad department of the Scientific and Technical Mining Society have visited several shale mines in Kokhtla-Yarve and Slantay. Docent A. Vaypolin, Stalin Prize Laureate, lectured Estonian shale mines on drilling and blasting work and A. Goshin, Candidate in Technical Sciences, assisted in adjusting the ventilating system in the "Kyava" Mine at Kokhtla-Yarve. Mining engineer K. Kosmanov has gone to Slantay on several occasions for consultations on technical problems.

The Leningrad department of the Society has worked out a plan for giving further assistance to shale industry during the current year. Cells of the Mining Society have been organized in Slantay, at the Kokhtla-Yarve mines, and in the "Estonianets" Combine.

SHALE MINE PUT INTO OPERATION -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 22, 28 Jan 49

Slantay -- Shale Mine No 2, completely demolished by the Germans, has been restored and put into operation. Shale mining is now completely mechanized and 10-ton electric locomotives are operating underground.

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